Scheme was evolved by merging 27 ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes including the RVP, FPR, RAS & NWDPRA with a view to accord greater flexibility to the States to develop and pursue agriculture activities on the basis of their regional priorities to increase Agriculture Production. Funds as provided and approved by Planning Commission are released to States on lump sum basis. Funds also released as per guidelines fixed by the Ministry of Finance for the Scheme. The funds released to Himachal Pradesh during the last two years are given below:

Year	Allocation	Releases (Rs. in lakhs)
2001-02	1800.00	1800.00
2002-03	1600.00	1600.00

(b) The allocation for the Himachal Pradesh for the year 2003-04 under Macro Managment Scheme is Rs. 1600.00 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 800.00 lakhs has already been released as 1st instalment.

Drought In J & K

581. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that twenty States were declared as drought hit States in the year 2002-2003;

(b) whether it is also a fact that funds were sanctioned/released to those States;

(c) why was Jammu & Kashmir not identified as a drought hit State; and

(d) the criteria adopted for declaring these drought hit States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) 18 States had reported drought situation of varying magnitude during the year 2002-2003.

(b) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and allocation of foodgrains, free of cost, under the Special Component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for relief employment, were made to the affected States.

(c) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir had reported drought situation but had not reported formal declaration of the areas affected by drought.

(d) Declaration of drought is made by the State Governments concerned taking into account various factors including deficit rainfall, Annawari/Girdawari etc.

Foot mouth free zone in Maharashtra

582. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Maharashtra Government to create a foot and mouth free zone in the State to encourage export of meat products;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to fund such a proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government to the proposal of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Drought

583. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of the country affected by severe droghts;